

the Smoot-Hawley tariff and FDR's National Industrial Recovery Act as among the worst bills Congress has ever seriously contemplated." Let's make no mistake, the Democrats' government takeover of the health care industry is an attempt to finish what FDR and the Progressives could not, a cradle-to-grave omnipotent government. It will extend the recession just as surely as FDR's programs prolonged the Great Depression.

The middle class and small businesses will bear the brunt of government's takeover of 16 percent of our economy to the tune of almost \$730 billion in new taxes and an additional \$1.2 trillion in new spending. One thing is for sure, Mr. Speaker, America is getting sick, sick of this Congress' government-knows-best attitude.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, let's look at the numbers on the Democratic health care bill being rammed through Congress this week.

At almost 2,000 pages, this new bill creates 111 new offices, commissions, programs and bureaucracies. It creates more than 3,400 new duties for bureaucrats in Washington. It also will eliminate millions of jobs in the private sector and an unprecedented expansion of the Federal bureaucracy.

Instead of listening to what Americans want and working on meaningful reform, the Democratic leadership came up with a bill that will cost taxpayers more than \$1.2 trillion and do nothing to make health care more affordable in this country. This is on top of the \$9 trillion deficit we are expected to have over the next decade in this country.

Controlling costs should be our number one priority for this administration. Unfortunately, my colleagues from across the aisle continue to ignore meaningful, medical liability reform, which this year alone could save over \$11 billion. We should be listening to what the American public wants and is demanding: real tangible methods of reform.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Speaker introduced her so-called health reform bill that will cost over \$1.2 trillion and will be paid for by massive taxes on small business and cuts to Medicare.

With unemployment at 10 percent and small businesses throughout the country struggling to survive, it is irresponsible to pass legislation that will place a higher tax burden on small businesses. President Obama has

pledged to let the Bush tax cuts expire. So small businesses can expect at least two tax hits in 2 years.

A radio journalist from back home asked me this morning if measures are being taken in Congress to alleviate unemployment. My reply was, no, unfortunately there is a kind of war on free enterprise going on in Washington right now. Until that war is ended, unemployment will not drop. We should be encouraging job growth and not destroying jobs with bills like this so-called health reform.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the reviews are starting to come in on House Speaker NANCY PELOSI's health care reform proposal, and those reviews are pretty serious.

In my home State, the Richmond Times Dispatch calls the bill grotesque; but perhaps the best description that I have seen, the most accurate description I have seen, is in The Wall Street Journal, that wrote an editorial on Sunday calling this legislation the worst bill ever.

How could anyone conclude otherwise? This 1,990-page runaway train of more than 400,000 words, creating more than 53 new government agencies and programs, is not the change that the American people asked for. This bill is going to raise the cost of health care to the overwhelming majority of Americans. It's going to make our health care system more complicated than it already is, more costly than it already is.

There are simple reforms that we could adopt if we would pay attention to what the American people want.

DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all South Carolinians who will be harmed by the Democrats' \$1.3 trillion proposed health care bill, H.R. 3962.

The majority's health care bill will increase the health care costs, use taxpayers' dollars to pay for abortions and create bigger government in the form of 111 new bureaucrats. Worse yet, in the First District of South Carolina, this bill would increase taxes for 8,700 small businesses, cut benefits for over 11,000 seniors and burden South Carolinian veterans with a debt that they will never be able to repay.

Republicans have focused on the concerns of the American people and have created a strong Republican alternative that advocates smaller government and increases health care coverage while decreasing costs. The

Democrats in Congress must listen to the people and work with us to create a health care plan that South Carolinians and all American families want and need.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PLATTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, in my district, I am often asked do I think health care reform will pass this session. My answer is always, I certainly hope so. The status quo should be unacceptable to everyone.

However, Speaker PELOSI's reform proposal is not the right reform. Our overriding principle should be first "do no harm." Unfortunately, in my humble opinion, Speaker PELOSI's proposal will do significant harm.

Just two examples: The Speaker's proposal seeks to cut funding from Medicare by over \$400 billion, making access to quality health care more difficult for our Nation's senior citizens. Second, it raises taxes on small businesses, making it more difficult for employers to cover their employees with health insurance.

There is a better way. The Republican alternative is about lowering the cost of health care for all Americans, about ensuring the portability of health insurance, and ending the denial of health insurance due to preexisting conditions. Remember, first do no harm.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill raises taxes, especially on small businesses. Small businesses will be hit with up to an 8 percent surcharge for those who cannot afford health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill cuts Medicare and reduces benefits to seniors. The 10 million seniors who now enjoy coverage under the Medicare Advantage program will lose that coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care plan will add to the government's long-term deficit problems. It plants the seeds for a number of entitlement programs that will never in the long run be paid for but will add to the Nation's debt. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill is 1,990 pages, a government takeover of the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Pelosi health care plan. Let's mend our current health care system. Let's not end it.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, with the new health care bill that spends \$1 trillion and creates over 100 new bureaucracies and projects, I believe all the focus is in the wrong place.

The bill still raises taxes on small business, hitting many with a 5.4 percent surtax when they are struggling in a tough economy. The bill imposes a new tax on medical devices, which will increase costs for patients by adding costs on hearing aids, bandages, and wheelchairs. This will also result in lost jobs for medical technology companies that employ over 20,000 people in my State of Minnesota.

The bill will hurt seniors with \$500 billion of cuts to Medicare, including eliminating Medicare Advantage programs for over 19,000 seniors in my district. Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't ram through a 2,000-page bill on the backs of small businesses and seniors.

There is a better way. We should be working on commonsense reforms that will actually lower premiums for families, individuals, and small businesses.

GOLDSTONE REPORT

(Mr. McMAHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Resolution 687, which condemns the United Nations Human Rights Council-passed Resolution 9/L.1 and the fact-finding mission which led to the Goldstone Report. The lopsidedly anti-Israel Goldstone Report blatantly ignored so much of what came before Operation Cast Lead.

Palestinian troops, including Hamas, have been responsible for launching more than 10,000 rockets and mortars at Israeli cities. In November 2008 alone, over 120 rockets and mortars were fired at Israeli cities, injuring hundreds of people. Furthermore, Israel did all it could to avoid causing civilian casualties and Hamas did all it could to cause them. Goldstone's mission failed because this simple truth was never acknowledged, confirmed or written.

Israel is our fellow democracy, our true and tried ally. Supporting it is essential to the stability of the Middle East.

Any democracy that chooses to treat Israel as a suspect state to impose on Israel false accusations and daunting deadlines for a peace agreement should know that its actions ultimately do damage to the shared values that all democracies espouse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Congress of the United States to stand against the Goldstone Report.

□ 1430

THE TALE OF TWO LAWS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker: It came on two pages, It has withstood the ages; The word "shall," is only 10 times mentioned,

But enough to get one's attention. No taxes did this law raise, To this day it continues to create much praise;

Two great religions does it claim, The "Law of the Ten Commandments" is its name.

A current writing, 1,990 pages long, Has a socialist philosophy that is all wrong;

Difficult for the people to understand,

And troubling what big government doth demand.

Over 3,445 "shalls" it does loudly shout,

New massive taxes does it proudly tout;

Written in secret by the bureaucrats, For exclusive use of the taxacrats.

The Congressional bill called "Health Care Reform,"

Is illusionary, the authors are still ill-informed;

Government ought not take over America's health biz,

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ENGEL. Well, as President Ronald Reagan used to say, there you go again. The same crowd that opposed Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s, who told us that that would bring socialized medicine to the United States, are now opposing health care for all, saying once again it will bring socialized medicine and all kinds of ills.

We have 46 million or 47 million Americans that don't have health coverage, and that will grow to 50 million, 60 million, and 70 million, so people that have coverage now will lose their coverage if we do nothing.

So this Democratic majority is going to do something. We are going to pass a comprehensive health care bill that will ensure that virtually all Americans will have health care. We are going to pass a bill that will make sure that the insurance companies can't refuse to cover you because they say you have a preexisting condition. We are going to make it so the insurance companies don't continue to collude amongst themselves to keep health care premiums high. We are going to make it so that we have affordable health care for all for the American people.

The American people should reject the lies and scares and fear tactics. We are going to have health care for all, and it is going to be good for the American people.

DOING BETTER ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ROSKAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, a couple of minutes ago there was a Member on the Democratic side who I sensed had a twinkle in his eye when he was trying to make the assertion that there were no Republican alternatives to this bill, because anybody that has been around this place knows that that is a joke. There are 50 Republican bills and 100 amendments that were offered by Republicans, so the notion that the GOP is showing up late is complete nonsense, and I think the twinkle in the eye is witness to that.

But here is the part that is no joke. The part that is no joke is that this bill, Mr. Speaker, creates 111 new bureaucracies that Speaker PELOSI is going to foist on our constituents.

We all know what it is like to get the constituent panic call when they can't navigate through some labyrinthian bureaucracy, and now there is going to be 111 new offices, departments, commissions and so forth that our constituents are going to have to deal with. They are ill-equipped to deal with an aggressive Federal Government that is going to take over one-sixth of the economy.

We can do better. Let's vote against this bill.

A BETTER WAY TO REFORM HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, there are so many different reasons why the American people are opposing the "Pelosi Government Takeover of Your Health Care" bill: 111 different offices, bureaus, commissions, and programs to get between you and your doctor, preventing you from getting the health care you need when you need it; 3,425 uses of the word "shall," to ensure that bureaucrats take away your choices and drive up your health care costs; \$150 billion cut from the Medicare Advantage program, endangering seniors who rely upon the program.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me give you 1 trillion more reasons to oppose this plan: a minimum \$1 trillion cost, on a country that is already going bankrupt. We have had our first \$1 trillion deficit. Under President Obama, we will triple—triple—the national debt in just the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot improve a nation's health care by bankrupting it, its families, and its children. This must be rejected.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE THAT AMERICANS DESERVE

(Mr. McHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1